

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 01079 01 OF 03 060922Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 HA-05 IO-13 /096 W
-----034589 062255Z /21

R 060720Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6783
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USELMLO BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 3 USBERLIN 1079

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS
CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, AEAGC-COC & AEAGB-PDN (I&W)

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: PGOV, WB, GE
SUBJECT: MAUERVORFELD AND S-BAHN; A SPATE OF MINOR INCIDENTS
CAUSE THE SENAT CONCERN

REF: (A) USBERLIN 0915 DTG 191530Z APR 78 (NOTAL), (B) BERLIN
2642 DTG 181338Z APR 78 (NOTAL), (C) USBERLIN 0877 DTG 141540Z
APR 78 (NOTAL), (D) BERLIN 2555 DTG 131638Z APR 78 (NOTAL),
(E) USBERLIN 0215 DTG 261511Z JAN 78, (F) USBERLIN 0843 DTG
111635Z APR 78, (G) USBERLIN 0586 DTG 131412Z MAR 78, (H) USBERLIN
0500 DTG 031617Z MAR 78

SUMMARY: OVER THE PAST EIGHT TO TEN WEEKS, THERE HAVE BEEN A SERIES
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 01079 01 OF 03 060922Z

OF APPARENTLY UNRELATED INCIDENTS ALONG THE BERLIN WALL, THREE
FIREBOMBING ATTACKS AGAINST THE S-BAHN, AN APPARENT SHOOTING
BY EAST GERMAN BORDER GUARDS DURING A SUCCESSFUL ESCAPE
INTO THE STAAKEN AREA OF BERLIN (BRITISH SECTOR) AND A SERIES
OF ACCOMPANYING GDR COMPLAINTS. SENIOR POLITICAL
OFFICIALS IN THE BERLIN SENAT HAVE EXPRESSED ON AN UN-
OFFICIAL LEVEL THEIR CONCERN THAT THE EAST GERMANS ARE

SEEKING TO DEVELOP CATALOGUE OF INCIDENTS TO JUSTIFY SOME FUTURE INTERVENTION IN MAUERVORFELD AREA OR ON S-BAHN PROPERTY. ALTHOUGH WE AGREE GDR MAY BE PROTESTING THESE INCIDENTS TO BUILD A RECORD, WE DO NOT, AS YET, SEE ANY REAL DANGER THAT GDR IS CURRENTLY LIKELY TO TAKE RASH ACTIONS. END SUMMARY.

1. AT APRIL 20 DINNER WITH ALLIED SENAT LIAISON OFFICERS, AND IN SUBSEQUENT CONVERSATIONS GERHARD HEIMANN, HEAD OF THE BERLIN SENAT CHANCELLERY AND CHANCELLERY POLITICAL SECTION DIRECTOR HORST SCHULTZE HAVE EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT RECENT SERIES OF WELL-PUBLICIZED INCIDENTS ALONG WEST BERLIN'S BOUNDARIES AND FIREBOMBINGS AGAINST THE S-BAHN MIGHT BE SIGNAL OF RENEWED GDR CAMPAIGN TO HARRASS WEST BERLINERS AND TO PROVIDE A BASIS FOR EAST GERMAN UNIFORMED AND ARMED PERSONNEL TO EXERCISE DEMONSTRATIVE CONTROL OVER THE MAUERVORFELD AREA AND PERHAPS ON REICHSBAHN (S-BAHN) PROPERTY AND TRAINS IN WEST BERLIN AS WELL. SENAT OFFICIALS RECALLED THAT, IN THE PAST TWO MONTHS, GER VISITS COMMISSIONER MITDANK HAD CALLED TO THE SENAT'S ATTENTION ALLEGATIONS OF MORE THAN 1400 INCIDENTS, DISTURBANCES AND/OR PROVOCATIONS IN THE MAUREVORFELD AREA IN WEST BERLIN WHICH HAD TAKEN PLACE OVER THE PREVIOUS FORU MONTHS. ON THREE DIFFERENT OCCASIONS MITDANK OR HIS DEPUTY CHALLENGED WEST BERLIN'S AUTHORITIES TO TAKE APPROPRIATE ACTION OT PREVENT WEST
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 01079 01 OF 03 060922Z

BERLINERS FROM ENGAGING IN PROVOCATIVE ACTIONS SUCH AS STONE-THROWING AT GUARDS AND BUILDINGS IN THE GDR OR EAST BERLIN, DUMPING OF RUBBISH ON GDR OR EAST BERLIN TERRITORY, (I.E. MAUERVORFELD) ETC.

2. SENAT OFFICIALS DREW SLO'S ATTENTION TO TWO BORDER INCIDENTS IN MARCH IN SOUTHERN PART OF CITY WHERE GDR TROOPS HAD VIOLATED WEST BERLIN TERRITORY (MARCH 3 AND MARCH 8 - REFTELS G AND H) AND HARRASSED WEST BERLIN RESIDENTS. THEY ALSO EXPRESSED THEIR CONCERN OVER REPORT THAT ON APRIL 17 (AS ALREADY REPORTED IN LIVE OAK CHANNEL) TWO MEN (PRESUMABLY WEST BERLINERS) STRAYED OVER THE BOUNDARY BETWEEN THE US SECTOR AND THE GDR AT UU 748075 NOT FAR FROM THE OLD DREILINDEN CHECKPOINT. REPORTS BY WITNESSES ARE CONFUSED, BUT APPARENTLY THE TWO MEN WERE DETAINED AT GUNPOINT WHILE STILL ON EAST GERMAN TERRITORY, QUESTIONED AND SEARCHED BEFORE BEING RELEASED. INITIAL POLICE REPORTS SAID PAIR WERE ORDERED BACK INTO GDR TERRITORY FOR SEARCH BY ARMED EAST GERMANS BUT PAINSTAKING AND TIME-CONSUMING INVESTIGATION BY USBER AND US ARMY OFFICERS DETERMINED FIRST REPORT WAS INNACCURATE. THE PARI OF BORDERCROSSERS

COULD NOT BE LOCATED FOR QUESTIONING. THIS INCIDENT
WAS REPORTED BRIEFLY IN THE WEST BERLIN PRESS.

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 01079 02 OF 03 061006Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 HA-05 IO-13 /096 W
-----034824 062256Z /11

R 060720Z MAY 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6784
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
INCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USELMLO BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 3 USBERLIN 1079

CINCDUER FOR POLAD AND OPS
CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, AEAGC-COC & AEAGB-PDN (I&W)

3. THE TWO SENAT OFFICIALS ALSONOTED UNUSUAL TOUGH-
NESS IN LANGUAGE OF GDR PORTESTS ABOUT FIREBOMBINGS
AGAINST S-BAHN IN MID-APRIL (REFS A AND C). SUMMING
UP, SENAT CHANCELLERY OFFICIALS EXPRESSED CONCERN GDR
COULD USE CONTINUING BORDER INCIDENTS AS PRETEXT TO
SEND VOPOS OR NVA (EAST GERMAN ARMY) INTO MAUERVORDELD
AREA TO "MAINTAIN ORDER," OR MAKE OSTENTIATIOUS DISPLAY
OF AUTHORITY IN S-BAHN STATIONS AND ABOARD SUBWAY
TRAINS. SUCH A MOVE BY THE EAST WOULD, OF COURSE,
HAVE SERIOUS MORALE DAMAGING EFFECT IN WEST BERLIN.
SENAT OFFICIALS ARE AT PRESENT AT A LOSS AS TO WHAT CAN
OR SHOULD BE DONE IF ANYTHING TO CONTROL EFFECTIVELY
ACTIVITIES OF WEST BERLINERS IN MAUERVORFELD AREAS
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 01079 02 OF 03 061006Z

ALONG CITY BOUNDARY WITH EAST BERLIN AND GDR.

R. IN DAYS FOLLOWING CONVERSATIONS WITH SENAT OFFICIALS FURTHER INCIDENTS OF THE TYPE DESCRIBED IN THE PARAGRAPHS ABOVE CONTINUED TO SURFACE IN POLICE REPORTS AND BERLIN PRESS. ON FRIDAY, APRIL 21, YET ANOTHER FIREBOMBING AGAINST THE S-BAHN OCCURED AND WAS REPORTED BY THE EAST GERMAN NEWS AGENCY ADN IN NEUES DEUTSCHLAND AND THE WEST BERLIN PRESS. ACCORDING TO THE ADN DISPATCH, UNIDENTIFIED PERSONS SET FIRE TO THE INTERIOR OF AN S-BAHN COACH WHILE IT WAS IN THE GESUNDBRUNNEN STATION IN WEDDING (FRENCH SECTOR). THE FIRE WAS CONTAINED BY THE EFFORTS OF TWO RAILWAY POLICE (REICHSBAHN TRANSPORTPOLIZEI). THERE HAVE BEEN NO PUBLIC PROTESTS FROM THE GDR ON THIS LATEST ATTACK, BUT VISITS COMMISSIONER MITDANK COMPLAINED STRENUOUSLY TO SENAT VISITS COMMISSIONER KNUZE DURING MEETING IN EAST BERLIN APRIL 26 ABOUT IT AS WELL AS A WHOLE SERIES OF ADDITIONAL RECENT BORDER INCIDENTS WHICH HE DOCUMENTED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS (A UNIQUE DEVELOPMENT TO OUR KNOWLEDGE). MITDANK SUBSEQUENTLY TELEXED LIST OF INCIDENTS TO SENAT TO INSURE ALL OF THE DETAILS GOT ACROSS.

5. IN THE EARLY MORNING HOURS OF APRIL 22, A 19 YEAR OLD EAST GERMAN ESCAPED INTO THE BRITISH SECTOR NEAR THE S-BAHN STATION AT STAAKEN. THEYOUNG REFUGEE MATERIALIZED AT THE S-BAHN STATION WITH A GUNSHOT WOUND IN HIS HAND, WHICH HE LATER TOLD POLICE AND BRITISH AUTHORITIES HE RECEIVED WHEN HE WAS FIRED ON WHEN HE CROSSED THE BORDER. ALTHOUGH NO SHOTS WERE HEARD AT THE TIME, NEITHER WE, THE BRITISH NOR THE POLICE HAVE REASON TO DOUBT THIS STORY. COMMENTING ON THIS INCIDENT, BERLIN CDU LEADER PETER LORENZ CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 01079 02 OF 03 061006Z

DEMNERED THE "SHOOT TO KILL" ORDERS OF THE GDR BORDER GUARDS AND SAID CHANCELLOR SCHMIDT CANNOT JUSTIFIABLY LEAVE THIS ISSUE OUT OF HIS DISCUSSIONS WITH GENERAL SECRETARY BREZHNEV.

6. ON APRIL 25 TWO YOUNG WEST BERLIN WOMEN WERE DETAINED BY GDR POLICE WHEN, DURING AN AFTERNOON STROLL IN THE DUEPPEL AREA OF THE CITY (US SECTOR) THEY ACCIDENTALLY WANDERED INTO A MAUERVORFELD AREA. ACCORDING TO POLICE AND NEWSPAPER REPORTS THE TWO WOMEN HAD NO IDENTITY DOCUMENTS BUT WERE RELEASED BY THE GDR POLICE AFTER BEING DETAINED AND QUESTIONED BY A HIGHER RANKING GDR

POLICE OFFICIAL.

7. COMMENT: NONE OF THE SPECIFIC INCIDENTS RAISED BY THE EAST GERMANS WITH THE SENAT, OR REPORTED IN THE PRESS (WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE APPARENT WOUNDING OF THE EAST GERMAN ESCAPEE) DESERVE EVEN A SECOND NOTICE. EVEN TAKEN IN THE AGGREGATE, THE INCIDENTS ARE NOT THE STUFF SOVEREIGN STATES SHOULD GET ADITATED ABOUT. YET THE GDR DOES APPEAR TO BE AGITATED, (CERTAINLY IT IS GOING TO GREAT LENGTHS TO COMPILE AND JUSTIFY ITS LISTS OF COMPLAINTS). THIS HAS IN TURN MADE A NUMBER OF SENIOR SENAT OFFICIALS EDGY. WE AGREE THAT THE GDR I SGUILDING UP ITS CATALOGE OF COMPLAINTS FOR FUTURE REFERENCE, BUT WE FEEL THERE IS TOO LITTLE EVIDENCE AVAILABLE TO US TO DRAW A CONCLUSION AS TO POSSIBLE GDR INTENTIOS. SENAT SPECULATION RUNS ALL THE WAY FROM THE BELIEF THAT THE GDR IS ONLY LETTING OFF STEAM TO KEEP PRESSURE FROM BUILDING UP INT ITS BUREAUCRACY OVER THESE INCIDENTS TO THE NERVOUS SUGGESTIONS THAT ONE BRIGHT DAY VOPOS OR NVA MIGHT APPEAR IN THE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 USBERL 00003 061035Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10
L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11
ACDA-12 TRSE-00 HA-05 IO-13 /096 W
-----035034 062255Z /70

R 060720Z APR 78
FM USMISSION USBERLIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6785
AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USMISSION USNATO
CINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER
CINCUSAREUR HEIDELBERG GER
USELMLO BEL

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION3 OF 3 USBERLIN 1079

CINCEUR FOR POLAD AND OPS
CINCUSAREUR FOR POLAD, AEAGC-COC & AEAGB-PDN (I&W)

MAUERVORFELD AREA AND EXERCISE AUTHORITY IN A DEMONSTRATIVE FASHION. WE TEND TO SEE THE RECENT SPATE OF INCIDENTS AS BEING THE RESULT OF INCIDENTAL FACTORS SUCH AS EARLY SPRING WEATHER, WHICH HAS ENCOURAGED WEST BERLINERS TO VENTURE TO SOME OF THE MORE DISTANT PORTIONS OF THEIR HALF OF THE CITY, BRINGING THEM TO WOODED AND GRASSY AREAS ALONG THE MAUERVORFELD WHERE THE BORDER IS POORLY DELINEATED, PROMPTING INCIDENTS TO OCCUR. LIKEWISE, IN SPRING A YOUNG BOY'S FANCY TURNS AS READILY TO THROWING ROCKS AND WRITING GRAFFITI ON WALLS AS IT DOES TO OTHER THINGS, AND IN BERLIN THERE ARE FEW BETTER TARGETS FOR LADS ARMED WITH A POCKETFUL OF STONES OR A PAINT CAN THAN THAT ONE

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 USBERL 00003 061035Z

CONVENIENTLY OFFERED BY EAST GERMANY'S BEST KNOWN CONSTRUCTION PROJECT. ALTHOUGH THE GDR HAS USED SOME STIFF LANGUAGE IN COMPLAINING ABOUT RECENT ALLEGED BORDER INCIDENTS AND S-BAHN ATTACKS, THEY HAVE, TO DATE, CONTINUED TO DEMONSTRATE RELATIVELY RESTRAINED BEHAVIOR IN DEALING WITH BORDER INCIDENTS COMPARE TO FIVE YEARS AGO (1973). IN THAT YEAR, FOR EXAMPLE, THERE WERE TEN SERIOUS SHOOTING INCIDENTS ALONG THE WALL, INCLUDING ONE IN WHICH A GDR ESCAPEE WAS SHOT DOWN IN FRONT OF CHECKPOINT CHARLIE AND THE US CONTROL SHACK WAS HIT BY FOUR ROUNDS OF GUNFIRE. ANOTHER CASE IN 1973 SO INCENSED WEST BERLINERS THAT HUNDREDS OF PERSONS GATHERED NEAR THE WALL IN THE FRENCH SECTOR, HURLING INSULTS AT GDR GUARDS AND PHYSICALLY ATTACKING AND DESTROYING PORTIONS OF THE OLD WALL AND WIRE MESH FENCE BEFORE THEY WERE RESTRAINED BY WEST BERLIN POLICE AND FRENCH GENDARMES. NOTHING EVEN APPROACHING THIS DEGREE SERIOUSNESS APPEARS TO BE IN THE WIND AT PRESENT. NONETHELESS, THE SENAT, AND WE, HAVE INDEPENDENTLY REACHED THE CONCLUSION THAT INCREASED SURVEILLANCE ALONG THE BORDER AREA BETWEEN WEST BERLIN AND EAST BERLIN AND THE GDR IS CALLED FOR. CONSEQUENTLY, THE SENAT HAS ORDERED STEPPED UP POLICE SURVEILLANCE AND WE ARE INCREASING THE FREQUENCY OUR SPECIAL "WALL PATROLS" WHICH CURRENTLY INSPECT THE LENGTH OF THE WALL IN THE US SECTOR FOUR TIMES WEEKLY. WEST BERLIN POLICE PRESIDENT BOERNER HAS SENT A TELEX DIRECTLY TO THE REICHSBAHNDIREKTION OFFERING HIS COMPLETE COOPERATION IN APPREHENDING ANYONE SUSPECTED OF DAMAGING REICHSBAHN PROPERTY. BOERNER EVEN TOOK THE UNUSUAL STEP OF TRANSMITTING TO THE REICHSBAHN A SERIES OF EMERGENCY TELEPHONE NUMBERS WITH WHICH TO ALERT SPECIAL WEST BERLIN POLICE UNITS IN CASES OF DISTURBANCES AGAINST REICHSBAHN PROPERTY IN WEST BERLIN.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 USBERL 00003 061035Z

8. BY INCREASING OUR JOINT SURVEILLANCE, WE AND THE
SENAT HOPE TO PRECULDE, OR AT LEAST NIP IN THE BUD,
MORE SERIOUS INCIDENTS AND AT THE SAME TIME, DEMONSTRATED
TO EH EAST THAT WE ARE ENGAGING IN GOOD FAITH, IF
RELATIVELY LOW-KEY, EFFORT TO PREVENT PROVOCATIONS
FROM RECURRING ON THE WEST BERLIN-GDR BORDER AND BETWEEN
THE TWO HALVES OF THE CITY. WE SEE LITTLE ELSE WHICH
CAN OR SHOULD BE DONE TO REDUCE THE NUMBER OF MINOR INCDIENTS.

9. USCOB CONRUS. GEORGE

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, HARASSMENT, BOMBING, BERLIN WALL, UNCONVENTIONAL WARFARE
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 06 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978USBERL01079
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780199-0499
Format: TEL
From: USBERLIN
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780585/aaaacuui.tel
Line Count: 348
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 52f7b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 USBERLIN 915, 78 BERLIN 978
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 15 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2768811
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: MAUERVORFELD AND S-BAHN; A SPATE OF MINOR INCIDENTS CAUSE THE SENAT CONCERN
TAGS: PGOV, WB, GC
To: STATE BONN
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/52f7b4a2-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014